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2009

MINING LANDS BRANCH

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*Renewed
Dedication
to Exploration
and Mining*



The Mining Lands Branch of the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines was established to provide orderly and equitable processes that ensure public access to Crown mineral rights for the exploration and potential development of mining lands.

The Branch has set four major challenges for itself.

1. To reinforce Ontario's strong competitive advantage in mineral exploration and development by:

providing an orderly, secure and equitable process for the acquisition and maintenance of mineral rights on Crown lands, through high levels of efficiency and consistency in the administration of the Mining Act as it pertains to mining lands tenure

We will:

- continually develop and improve internal policies, procedures and guidelines to better administer the Mining Act
- attempt to minimize disputes and avoid time-consuming and costly litigations
- give fair and impartial rulings on land acquisition and tenure issues
- assess our current organization with a view to becoming more efficient in our delivery of service

- plan and provide for staff development and training to ensure a high level of program delivery

providing clients with access to accurate and timely mining lands information for security of tenure

We will:

- undertake intensive staff training initiatives to ensure that the maximum benefits are obtained from computerization projects, such as CLAIMS and MAPPS, that are now under way
- as a long-term goal, integrate our data bases with a geographic information system to enhance our data management and presentation capabilities

fostering strengthened communications with clients and other ministries in the management of Crown lands

We will:

- continue to provide expert advisory and consultative services to clients through our Mining Recorder's Offices
- listen to and act upon client feedback and advice. One of our priorities in this area will be to liaise with various client groups on matters related to the Mining Act

- develop means by which other ministries and interest groups will become more knowledgeable about our roles in land acquisition and maintenance processes
- assume an advocacy and liaison role with other ministries on behalf of our clients in issues of land acquisition and tenure

2. To confirm Ontario's commitment to the protection of the environment by:

emphasizing environmental considerations in the process of acquiring mining rights in Ontario

We will:

- produce public education materials which highlight environmental aspects of claim staking
- encourage the adoption of environmentally friendly claim staking techniques
- act as liaison with other line ministries, such as the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Natural Resources, and external agencies, such as Ducks Unlimited and Ontario Wetlands, to assist them in fulfilling their respective environmental mandates, while taking into consideration the economic impact on our client industry

3. To advocate for a balanced use of Ontario's resources through provincial land-use planning processes by:

fostering a better understanding of the critical need for continued access to land for mineral exploration and mining. By doing so, we will contribute to the maximizing of the land base available for exploration and mining

We will:

- provide technical land tenure advice and conduct research on land tenure status to make more land available for staking and exploration where possible
- provide staff to participate in and provide advice and support for land use planning initiatives and issues
- provide technical assistance and expertise to identify and facilitate the resolution of land use conflicts

supporting divisional initiatives which encourage greater participation by industry representatives in the land use planning process

We will:

- encourage team-building throughout the division and in other ministries by providing information on land use and tenure so land-use policies which support the interests of mineral exploration and mining can be developed

optimizing the use of Ontario's land base through the judicial application of mining fees and taxes required to obtain and retain mining rights

4. To enhance career opportunities and the development of tomorrow's leaders by:

promoting a corporate culture which provides high-quality training and development opportunities; encourages "bottom-up" decision-making throughout the organization; and motivates staff to seek out progressively challenging work

We will:

- develop and make available appropriate training and development programs
- encourage and support self-directed career development plans
- introduce programs to encourage staff to make suggestions and improvements to the way we do our business
- encourage entrepreneurship from within

assisting in developing educational and career development programs related to the exploration and mining industry that are focused on all levels of Ontario's educational system



J.A. (Sandy) McIntosh
Director, Mining Lands Branch

As Director of the Mining Lands Branch, Sandy will lead a dedicated staff of professional land administrators in providing orderly and equitable service to the

exploration and mining industry. Nine recording offices and a land management group in Sudbury will facilitate public access to Crown land for the acquisition and maintenance of secure mineral rights in Ontario. As a member of the Ministry's executive management committee, Sandy will have the responsibility of ensuring that the interests of Mining Lands are considered in the development of government legislation and policies that affect exploration and mining in Ontario.

Sandy obtained a M. Eng. degree in management from the Pennsylvania State University in 1971; a B.Sc. in mining engineering; and a certificate of mining technology from the Haileybury School of Mines. After extensive experience in the mining industry and the federal government, he joined the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines in Timmins as the Northeastern Regional Director for the Mines and Minerals Division in 1986. Sandy was appointed director of the new Mining Lands Branch in September 1991 and is located in Sudbury.



Ron C. Gashinski

Senior Manager

In his capacity as Senior Manager in the Mining Lands Branch, Ron supervises the development of legislation, regulations

and operational policies and procedures for the Mining Lands program. He works in conjunction with the Mining Lands Management team. Ron also manages a Geoscience Approvals Section and a Mining Lands Disposition Section, as well as a Policy Analyst, a Project Co-Ordinator, a Lands Technician and a Provincial Claims Inspector within the Sudbury office of the newly reorganized Branch.

A graduate of the Haileybury School of Mines with extensive field exploration experience, Ron joined the Ministry in 1988 as the Timmins-based Regional Manager of Mining Lands.



Mark Hall

Chief Mining Recorder

Mark is responsible for managing the field delivery of the Mining Lands program through the nine Mining Recorder's Offices

across the province. As part of the Mining Lands Management team, the Chief Mining Recorder recommends and reviews internal policies and procedures that will have an impact on the

administration of the Mining Act and Regulations. He also assesses the impact of staffing on the delivery of the program. Mark is directly responsible for supervising the performance of the nine Mining Recorders and their staff to ensure efficient, fair and equitable treatment with respect to the administration of mining rights and tenure.

A graduate of McMaster University with a B.Sc. in Geology, Mark held positions of Mining Recorder trainee, Deputy Mining Recorder, Mining Recorder and Manager of Mining Lands for Northwestern Ontario Region before becoming Chief Mining Recorder in 1991.



Jeannie Barty
Administration Manager

Jeannie is responsible for all financial and administrative matters within the Mining Lands Branch. This includes co-ordinating the budget and acquiring all supplies, services, vehicles and accommodations.

After filling a variety of posts with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Jeannie joined the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines in 1986 as the Administrative Services Coordinator for the Mines and Minerals Division's Northeast Region, based in Timmins. She held that position until October 1991, when she took up her duties as Administration Manager.



Terra Larsen
Mining Lands Policy Analyst

Terra is responsible for co-ordinating the development of policies, procedures and guidelines for the administration of the Mining

Act and Regulations. As Policy Analyst for the Mining Lands Branch, she analyzes legislation and policies of other ministries and branches which might affect the administration of the Mining Act. Also part of the Mining Lands Management team, Terra helps determine the training needs of the Branch.

Terra holds an honours B.Sc. in Geology from Laurentian University and a General Management Certificate from Sheridan College. She spent several years at the Ontario Geological Survey and in private industry before becoming Coordinator, Mining Lands Administration, in 1989.



Blair Kite
Supervisor, Geoscience Approvals

Blair is responsible for the section which evaluates all the geoscience exploration work filed in Ontario as

assessment work to maintain mining claims in good standing. As Supervisor of Geoscience Approvals, he also has a key role in designing

policy and procedures for the administration of the Assessment Work Regulations of the new Mining Act.

Blair holds both an honours B.Sc. in Geology and a graduate diploma in Business Administration from Lakehead University. Upon graduation, he conducted exploration work for several mining companies. Since joining the Ministry in 1986, he held several positions in Mining Recorder's Offices prior to becoming Supervisor, Geoscience Approvals.



Vic Miller

Supervisor, Mining Land Dispositions

Vic supervises a group that is responsible for matters pertaining to the renewal of mining leases, transfers of mining leases and Licences of Occupation, processing of Canada Company Quit Claim applications, forfeitures of mining lands for non-payment of mining lands tax or lease/licence rentals, and voluntary surrenders of mining leases, Licences of Occupation and patents.

A graduate of the Ontario Forest Technical School in Dorset, Ontario, Vic was employed with the Ministry of Natural Resources in the Public Lands Management Section, before being appointed Mining Recorder for the Sudbury Mining Division in 1979.



John Norwood
Legal Counsel (Legal Services Branch)

John provides legal guidance to the Mining Lands Branch on all matters relating to the interpretation and administration of the Mining Act. He also conducts all appeals to the Mining and Lands Commissioner on behalf of the Mining Lands Branch.

Before joining the Ministry's Legal Services Branch in 1990, John had 15 years' experience as legal counsel to the mining industry.

Mining Recorders

The nine Mining Recorders play a key role in the administration of the Mining Act and Regulations. As field representatives of the Mining Lands Branch, responsible for the regional delivery of services, they:

- maintain a registry of unpatented mining claims
- resolve mining land tenure problems
- rule on acceptability of documentation for recording
- adjudicate mining land disputes

The Mining Recorder advises clients on the procedures for staking and recording of mining claims, as well as for assessment work required to maintain their status.

Mining Recorders keep track of all Crown land dispositions and alienations within their division and inform clients which lands are open for staking. The Recorder also exercises judgement on non-technical assessment work which has been submitted to the Ministry for work credits.

A Recorder acts in a quasi-judicial capacity by convening hearings and making judgements to settle disputes over the staking of a mining claim or the filing of assessment work.

The Mining Recorder also brings to the attention of mining claim stakers and the mineral development community the need for sensitivity to environmental and social issues that may impact on their mineral-related business affairs.



Raili Charnesky
Southern Ontario Mining Division

Raili has been Mining Recorder for the Southern Ontario Mining Division since July, 1979. She has extensive experience and has worked in seven of the nine Ontario recording offices since joining the Ontario Department of Mines in Thunder Bay in 1953. The knowledge she has gained during her career has proved beneficial to the Ministry during major staking rushes such as Manitouwadge, South Bay and Hemlo.



Martin Cuda

Larder Lake Mining Division

Martin joined the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines in June 1987 under the Mining Lands Intern Program. He served as acting Deputy Mining

Recorder for the Larder Lake Mining Division, then was seconded to the Mining Lands "Claims" computer program project in 1989. He was successful in competing for the position of Deputy Mining Recorder and recently for the position of Mining Recorder, Larder Lake Mining Division.

A graduate of the University of Waterloo, Martin gained experience working for Labrador Mining and Exploration Limited, Kidd Creek Mines Ltd. and the Ontario Geological Survey.



Roy Denomme

Sudbury Mining Division

Previous to this position as Mining Recorder in Sudbury, Roy had been handling the duties as Mining Recorder for the

Red Lake Mining Division since 1989. He joined the Ministry's Mining Lands Section under the Mining Recorders' Trainee Program in 1984 and was appointed Mining Claims Inspector for the Kenora and Red Lake Mining Divisions, working out of the Kenora Mining Recorder's Office, in 1986.

A Geological Engineering graduate from Cambrian College in Sudbury, Roy was involved in many private sector exploration projects before joining the Ministry.



Sheila Lessard
Sault Ste. Marie Mining Division

Sheila has been Mining Recorder for the Sault Ste. Marie Mining Division since June 1987, after serving as the acting Recorder in the Kirkland Lake office for one year and the Timmins office for four months. She also worked as Senior Recording Clerk with the Mining Recorder in Sudbury in 1977.

A graduate of Cambrian College in Sudbury with a diploma in Business Administration, Sheila started her career with the Public Lands Branch of the Ministry of Natural Resources in 1973.



Romona Majcher
Patricia Mining Division

Romona has been with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines since late 1987, when she began as the Mining Recorder in Red Lake. In 1989, she relocated to her current position as Mining Recorder of the Patricia Mining Division, based in Sioux Lookout.

With a technical background in both Forestry and Geological Engineering, augmented by several courses in Geology, she worked in the private mineral exploration sector for more than eight years before joining the Ministry.



Scott Rivett
Kenora Mining Division

Scott joined the Mines and Minerals Division as Mining Recorder in Red Lake in 1981. In 1987, he moved to Kenora to become Mining Recorder for this Mining Division.

A recipient of degrees in both Geography and Geology from Laurentian University, Scott held a variety of positions with Falconbridge Ltd., the Ontario Department of Mines, International Minerals and Chemicals and various mining companies before joining the Ministry of Natural Resources as a Resource Geologist in Kenora.



Roy Spooner
Red Lake Mining Division

Roy has been Mining Recorder for the Thunder Bay Mining Division since 1988.

After obtaining his diploma in Forest Technology from Lakehead University in 1973, Roy worked with the Ministry of Natural Resources at Pickle Lake, Thunder Bay, Sioux

Lookout and Dryden, before joining the Mines and Minerals Division as Mining Recorder for the Patricia Mining Division at Sioux Lookout in 1984.



Gary White
Porcupine Mining Division

Gary joined the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines in October 1987 as Mining Recorder for the Porcupine Mining Division in Timmins. In September 1990, he filled in as acting Mining Lands Manager for the Northeastern Region. When that position was dissolved as a result of the organization of the Mineral Development and Lands Branch into two separate branches, Gary returned to his Mining Recorder's position in Timmins.

Vacant (at time of printing) Thunder Bay Mining Division administered by the acting Mining Recorder.

Mines and
Minerals Division

Mining Recorders
Offices

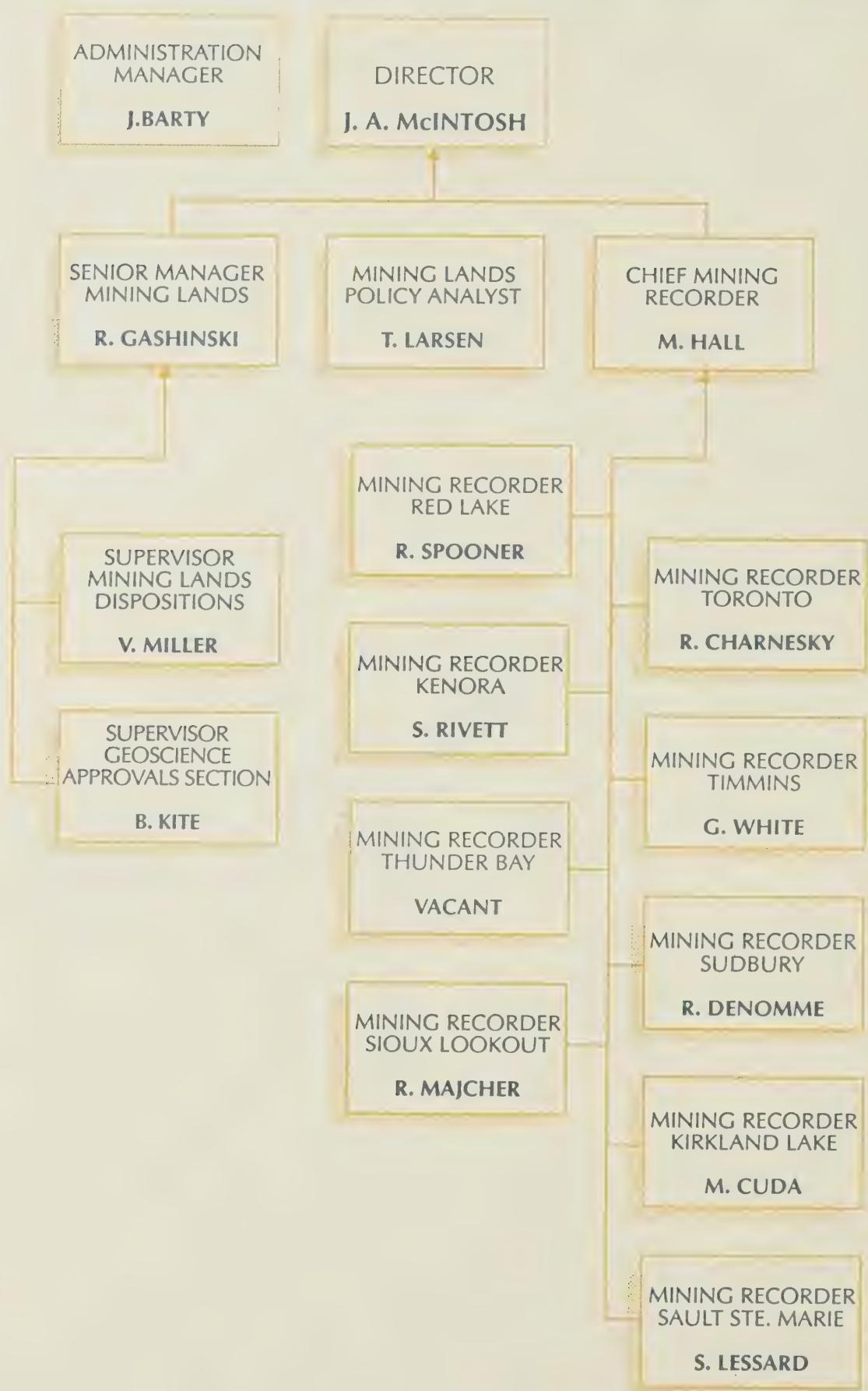


◎ Head Office

— Mining Division Boundary

• Mining Recorder's Office

MINING MINERALS DIVISION MINING LANDS BRANCH



Call on Us!

Kenora

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Red Lake

SPOONER, Roy (807) 727-3284

Sault Ste. Marie

LESSARD, Sheila (705) 949-1231

Sioux Lookout

MAJCHER, Romona (807) 737-2034

Sudbury

DENOMME, ROY (705) 670-7319

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LARSEN, Terra (705) 670-7259

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Timmins

BARTY, Jeannie (705) 360-8305

WHITE, Gary (705) 360-8330



Ministry of
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